



Child Haven International

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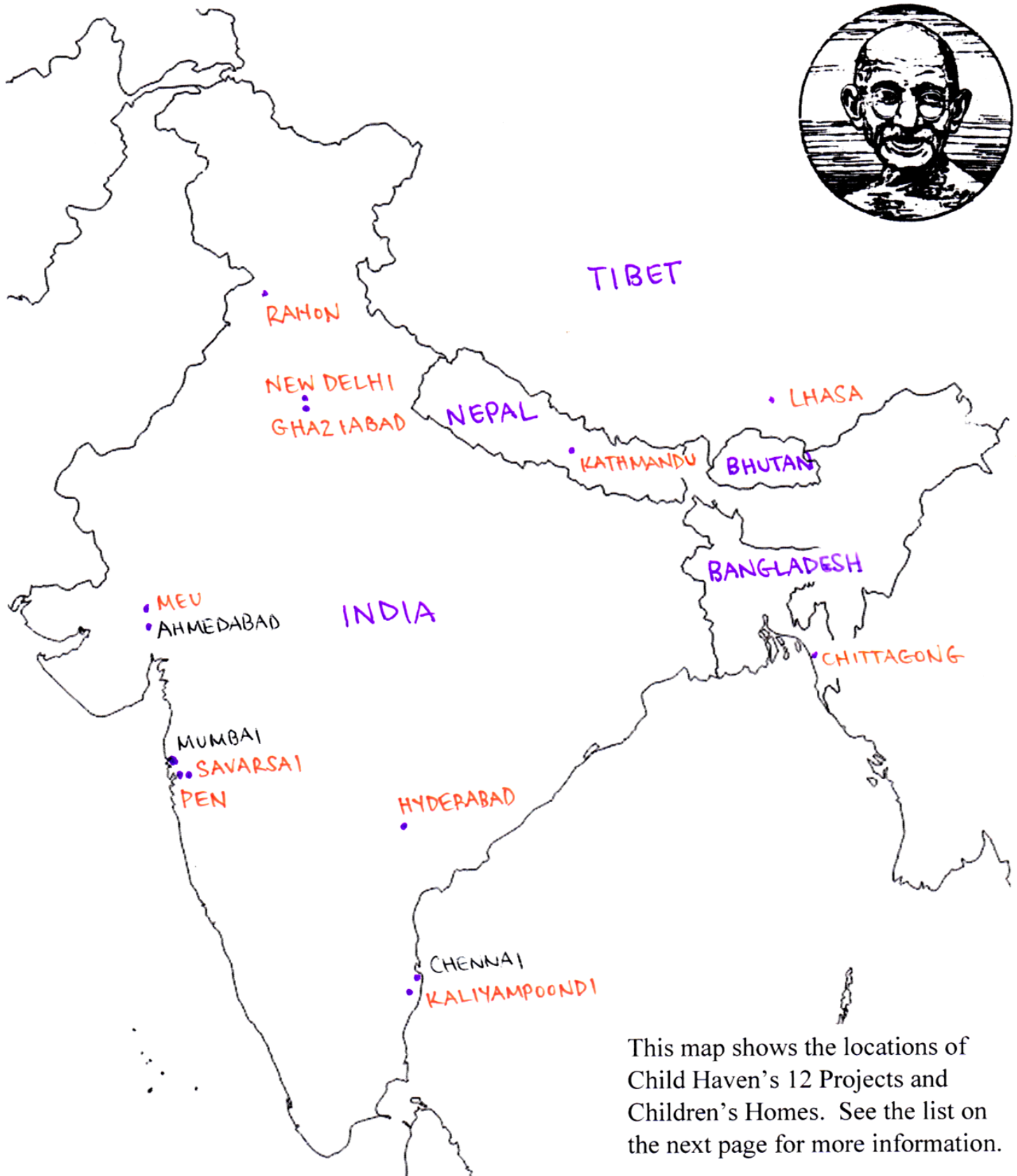


December 2024



Kaliyampoondi – Leaders of tomorrow! Confident, brilliant, cheerful, each with a special gift only they possess to offer their families, communities and our world! From left to right they are Dharani, Priya, Jesmitha and Grace. All are in Grade 9 this year.

Kaliyampoondi	1-2, 17, 22-23	Hyderabad	3-7	Kathmandu	13, 15
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This map shows the locations of Child Haven's 12 Projects and Children's Homes. See the list on the next page for more information.

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Kaliyampoondi – Robin captured this photograph of Kasthuri, who is 11 and in Grade 6, doing schoolwork next to the Home Gate while the other girls waited in line for the walk to school half a mile away in the village. They go as a group with staff members interspersed to keep everyone safe. Traffic, from ox-carts and 12 wheeler trucks amble or zoom by at their own speed. Robin was reminded of all the frantic moments he experienced completing homework in the school bus on the way to school so many years ago. Judging from Kasthuri's calm demeanor, she is probably doing an extra credit assignment! Kasthuri's parents were unable to attend school and are very excited to watch and cheer her progress

Child Haven Homes

Meu, Gujarat, India, 93 children 8 women, Language: Gujarati

Hyderabad, Telangana, India, 170 children 14 women, Language: Telugu

Kaliyampoondi, Tamil Nadu, India, 280 children 35 women, 35 Seniors, Language: Tamil

Maitreya Foundation, New Delhi, India, 24 children 1 woman, Language: Tibetan & Hindi

Savarsai, Maharashtra, India, 77 children 4 women, Language: Marathi

Tribal Home, City of Pen, near Savarsai Home, 63 children, Marathi plus Tribal languages

Kathmandu, Nepal, 203 children 22 women, Language: Nepali

Chittagong, Bangladesh, 70 children 15 women, Language: Bengali

(Hundreds of other children are sponsored for education, but are not living in one of our Homes.)

Women's Programs Child Haven Sponsors

Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, education in tailoring for 50 women at a time; inexpensive sanitary napkin production and sale; Beauty and Wellness Course. Language: Hindi

Rahon, Punjab, education in tailoring for 50 women at a time. Language: Punjabi - Currently on hold

Kathmandu, Nepal, education in tailoring for women. Language: Nepali



Hyderabad – Devanshi, center left, is the most beautiful baby in the world. She was born to our Assistant Manager Shiva, left, and his wife Shirisha, right. Shiva grew up in our Home and joined the staff after completing a degree in Hotel Management. He is now working on his Master's in Social Work when he is not helping to steward our Home. Shirisha and Shiva met when she was working as a nurse for our Home, a post she hopes to return to after Devanshi gives her OK.

Below, Shiva helps with a study session for the Grade 10 students and enjoys volleyball with the kids during free time. Shiva often recalls being one of the students listening to and playing with former Assistant Managers!





Hyderabad – Doing chores and helping out are built into the schedule at this home. Above, from left to right, Radhika, Lokesh, and Ananya help out our long-time cook Indirama trim the beans. Below left, Harshavardhan, age 13, does his laundry. Below right, from left to right, Gopal, cook, Chandrakala, Abhikethan and Haricharan make dosas on the new dosa pan purchased through our Needs Chart donation program thanks to a generous Child Haven supporter!





Hyderabad – Construction is underway! As readers of this erudite and elegant journal will remember, our Hyderabad Home is now in the shadow of a rapidly rising, soon to be 40 story apartment building! But luckily we have been able to sell our Home and property there to the builder of that apartment, Seenaiah Bollenini whose firm in turn, is building all new buildings for us on a property three times as large as our current site, a little outside the city. In the photos above, clockwise from the top left you can see the new boy's dorm going up, the view from the current top of the dorm (it will rise one more floor), the boundry wall being built and a cement mixer at work.

Below is an ancient tamarind tree, home to many white cranes in the corner of the property and to the right below, Ganesh, Seenaiah, Robin and Avani on their recent visit to Hyderabad.





Hyderabad –The start of the monsoon season in Telangana, India, can bring about many changes.

These days it may be associated with cooler weather and flooding; but in the past, it also meant the spread of water-borne diseases such as cholera and mysterious plagues that took the lives of thousands of people. The festival of Bonalu celebrated in the pictures above is a centuries-old Hindu tradition mainly practiced in Hyderabad and Secunderabad that marks the staving off such plague and disease during this transition time.

In this festival, women, such as our loving caregiver Padmamma shown in the bottom left picture, wear their best saris and prepare a sweet concoction of rice, milk and jaggery (unrefined sugar) in decorated pots. Neem leaves and turmeric, known for their medicinal antibacterial properties, are placed on top of the pots, along with a small oil lamp. Women then place this arrangement on top of their heads, as shown in the background of the bottom right picture, and offer it to the goddess Mahakali, the goddess of time and death.

Another staple of this celebration is the exciting performance of the Pothuraju, who is the brother of the goddess Mahakali. In the bottom right picture, you can see Jashwanth and Vamshi in full Pothuraju character with turmeric paste anointed on their bodies and the brandishing of a holy rope that is thought to further ward off disease.

Of course, no Indian celebration is complete without strikingly beautiful mehndi, shown in the top left, and ecstatic brothers and sisters taking a break from dancing to pose for a picture, in the top right. It is truly beautiful to see so many wonderful staff and children come together to keep the local traditions of Hyderabad alive! We hope that this year's celebrations keep everyone plague-free and happy!

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Using our secure online application, you can set up a withdrawal from your bank account through a simple electronic funds transfer.

The Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) Agreement form is available through our web site under “direct deposit.” Call us at 613-527-2829 if you need help.

DONATING BY INTERACT E-TRANSFER allows one time donation of funds between two bank accounts using email and online banking services.

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Send an e-Transfer to fred@childhaven.ca
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DONATING THROUGH UNITED WAY

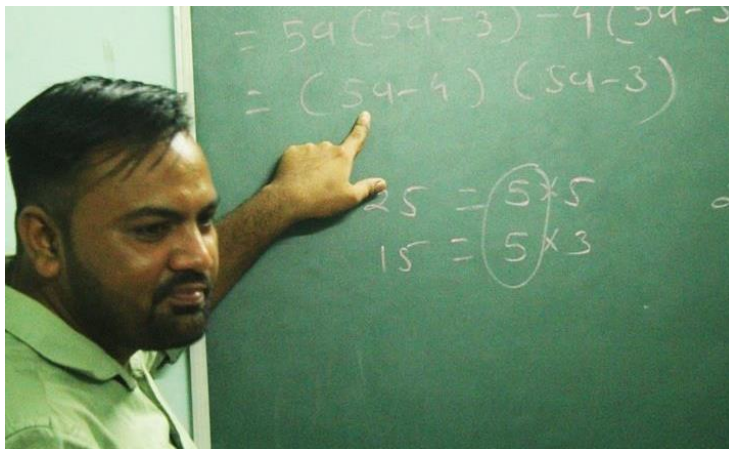
To give through United Way, just designate your donation to ‘Child Haven International’ and include our Registered Charity # Canada 11885 1922 RR0001. USA 22-2637689. Receipts are issued by United Way.

We are also able to receive **gifts of stocks and securities.**
(which provides donors better tax advantages than donating cash.)

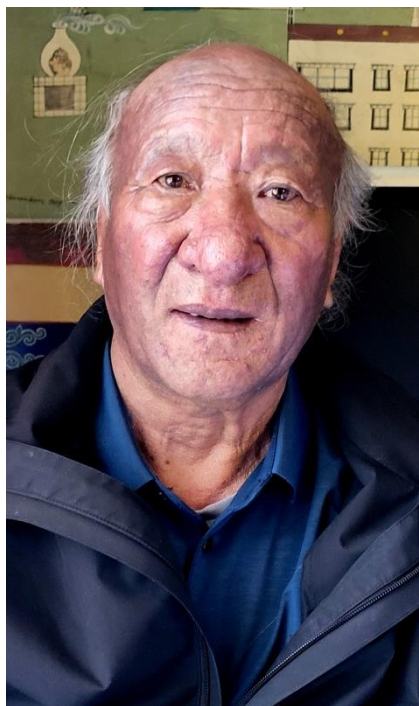
Another way to offer your support is by **leaving Child Haven a bequest in your will.** There is a brochure on several ways to do this on our web site under “Donating”

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Erudite, Elegant and Educational Newsletter
Editor Emeritus, Fred Cappuccino
Editor, Robin Cappuccino





Meu – Staying on top of school subjects is quite an important endeavor at the Meu Home in Gujarat, India. Luckily, the high school girls and boys pictured above can get help from Krunal Kumar and Prajapathi Dixitkumar Bholabhai when it comes to factoring in algebra. Krunal, left above and Bholabhai, top right, are teachers at the local high school who have generously agreed to help students from the Home once a week for a minimal fee. Many Child Haven children are the first in their family to learn how to read and write and/or complete their formal education through Grade 10. They will then go on to earn a college or technical school degree. These skills give these graduates the choice to explore job opportunities with higher pay if they decide to pursue such a path and financially support themselves and their loved ones. This can make succeeding in school a rather heavy responsibility! It's no surprise everyone much appreciates the help and attention that people like Krunal and Bholabhai provide with their skillful tutoring! Best of luck with your exams everyone!



Tibet – Avani and Robin were finally able to make it into Tibet to meet with our project coordinators for the first time since the COVID crisis closed down the borders. They were able to meet with Norbula, above left and also pictured as a younger self with his now deceased wife, Dolma Dolkar wearing the brown hat and third from the right in the back row. Norbula and Dolma Dolkar ran our Children's Home in Nanang Village for many years until the Chinese Government closed our Home and all private children's homes and transferred all the children into a huge government-run institution where the children were taught in Chinese and kept isolated from their communities.

Following the closing of that Home, Norbula administered an informal educational support program for Child Haven through which Child Haven supported the high school and college education of the children of primarily single mothers in the village who could afford to keep their children at home, but not pay for their books and tuition. It was a great pleasure to be able to meet with Norbula. He is now living in Lhasa with some of his children as the higher elevation in Nanang was proving to be difficult for his blood pressure. He shared with us some updates on how many of our former students are doing. Here are a few of the updates he shared.

Tenzin Dolkar had no family when she joined our Home. When the Home was closed, she was very unhappy in the new facility and ran away back to Norbula's family home. There she completed her nursing degree and is now working as a nurse in a hospital in Lhasa. Llamtso, one of the girls we supported in the village completed her studies and is now working as an animal control officer in the village. Dolkar also completed her studies and now works helping people fill in government forms. Tsering Dorje got a degree in crop science and works as an agricultural agent helping farmers with their crops. Yishi Tenzin is now a local government chief in East Tibet. Nyima Dorji, works on the Tibet-India-China border as a border official. Choden works in Eastern Tibet in a local bank where she give loans to farmers. Samdon studied English in University and now teaches English in an English school in Lhasa. Additionally, Child Haven sponsored the education of two Doctors of Tibetan Medicine who are currently practicing their skills.

Norbula expressed deep gratitude for the support of Child Haven in uplifting the children whose care he directed. He is also most proud and appreciative of how well those young people are now doing. He is at a point in his life where retirement is on his horizon and does not feel up to continuing to oversee our education program. We are ever so grateful to Norbula, all of the children and young people we grew to know and love and also Pema Dorje who acted as our translator and support person for many years. We remain committed to the resilient people of Tibet and will see what the future brings.



Savarsai – Karthik and Archana, above, are two of the new children at this Home. Karthik's father died some years ago, and his mother works for daily wages when she is able to. Karthik was not attending school and due to his mother's financial challenges sometimes did not get enough food to eat when he was living with her. She was relieved to learn about Child Haven. Archana's mother has been missing for the past two years and she lived with her Grandmother who makes a meagre living working in a brick kiln. Her father, who struggles with alcoholism, only visited her once a year. Her grandmother looks forward to visiting Archana when she can.

Below, Karthik, (in brown camo shirt in the center), joins some of the other children for a study session on the roof of the boy's dorm. The roof has a metal canopy over it making it a great place for laundry on a rainy day!





Pen Tribal Home— There is always something interesting happening at the Tribal Children’s Home! Above some of our young people pose with a photograph of Nagya Mahadu Kathlari, who was a Tribal man killed during the struggle for India’s Independence. Tribal people’s contributions are often overlooked, so commemorating his contribution is especially important.

Below left, is a statue of the Hindu god Ganesh which the children made out of clay to commemorate his birthday. Included in their sculpture is Ganesh’s rat companion Mushak.

Below right, Deepali, (to the left) in Grade 11 speaks with Child Haven videographer and social media coordinator Avani Pisapati. Deepali is from the Kathkari Tribe. Her mother works in a brick kiln when it is operating, and is very grateful that her daughter has an opportunity to go to school. Her sister, Vrushali a 9th grade student, is also at the Tribal Home.

The woman in the center is Shruti, the Girl’s supervisor for older students. She is a very thoughtful and enthusiastic staff member always excited to share ideas with children and young people she cares for.





Kathmandu – There is nothing quite as special as the excitement and play that takes place during the Kathmandu Home’s cultural programs. This summer, around 100 children and staff gathered to sing, play live music, including the harmonium and drums above. They captured our hearts with choreographed and freestyle dance for the event. It was also a treat to spend the evening with Sophia, Emilie, and Nissa, friends of the Home who were visiting from Canada, pictured below. They generously shared their family’s culture by donning traditional Tibetan clothing and performing an ancient Tibetan dance. It was an afternoon and evening to remember and celebrate the multiplicity of talents and art forms that are all part of the global Child Haven family.



Sangita, Child Haven Wonder Woman by Avani Pisapati



There are many types of Child Haven Wonder Women. Some have overcome centuries of patriarchy to be a fearless leader of a business or family. Others have battled caste-based prejudice to secure a stable position in their workplace. Sangita's Wonder Woman story truly includes all kinds of triumphs. She (pictured to the left) is a loving caregiver, confidant to children, exemplary accountant, role model to physically challenged people, and Kathmandu's most valuable artist in residence.

It was clear how much she is appreciated by the staff and children of the Kathmandu Child Haven Home by how difficult it was to find a time to interview her! Luckily, I was able to catch her for a moment in between preparing financial documents for audit reports and counseling college students on their assignments and newly independent lives.

Talking about her time at Child Haven fills Sangita with tender emotions. It moves her to think of all the children who have changed before her eyes and the help that everyone has given her over the years. She joined the Child Haven family 22 years

ago, hearing about an opportunity to work as a computer trainer there from her friend Kanya, who is now manager of the Kathmandu Home. Sangita started teaching computer classes to people in the community and children in grades 4 through 7 at the Green Tara Child Haven School. Then after some years, she was offered a position as an accountant and has been officially working under that title since.

Sangita suffers from post-Polio challenges that affect her legs and ability to walk. Although it poses difficulties, staff and children are always at the ready to help her and make accommodations when needed. Child Haven has also provided support for her medical care and surgeries that have improved her condition over time, and for that she is very grateful.

What I found most special about Sangita is her genuine love for all the children in the Kathmandu Home. She can always be found leading arts and craft-making sessions (pictured to the right) on special occasions and just being a genuine, reliable friend to all those that need it. Thank you Sangita for all the light and love you bring to our Child Haven family! You are a truly powerful and transformative Wonder Woman!





Kathmandu – One of the benefits of having so many older Child Haven siblings in our Home is how helpful they can be with challenging homework and study questions! Here are some of the helping heroines and heroes at this Home!

Above left, Mina, second from the right, is in Grade 11 with a focus on Hotel Management. She manages to take time from her own studies to tutor the Grade 1 students, Basanta, Da Pemsha, Lakapa Doma, and Ramila.

Samir, in the light blue shirt above is in his third year of pursuing a Diploma in Civil Engineering. Here he is helping Shubiksha, Mahima, and Debendra all in Grade 5.

To the middle left, Anushka is providing thoughtful assistance to Bhabishya who is in Grade 3.

Below them, Sabin, in Grade 11 and studying Hotel Management helps out fifth graders Bikash and Prinsa.

Huge Thanks to all our young scholars and the ones who help them reach the highest heights and be the best they can be just as their older Child Haven siblings helped to mentor them in their younger days.



Bonnie Lore by Fred Cappuccino, her long-suffering husband

Editor's Note – The following is a selection from *Bonnie and her 21 Children, A Memoir from her long-suffering husband* – Copies of this esteemed tome are still available while they last from our Maxville Office.

Annie Laurie was our fifth child, adopted at 22 months of age from Korea. Family solidarity and morale were enhanced by singing after meals at the table. One song was:

*Maxwelton's braes are bonnie, where early fa's the dew
And 'twas there that Annie Laurie ga' me her promise true...
Ga' me her promise true, which ne'er forgot would be,
And for bonnie Annie Laurie, I'd lay me doon and dee.
Her brow is like the snow-drift; her throat is like the swan,
Her face it is the fairest that e'er the sun shone on.
That e'er the sun shone on, and dark blue is her e'e
And for bonnie Annie Laurie, I'd lay me doon and dee.
Like dew on the gowans lying, is the fa' o her fairy feet,
And like winds in summer sighing, her voice is low and sweet.
Her voice is low and sweet, and she's a' the world to me,
And for bonnie Annie Laurie, I'd lay me doon and dee.*

We sang a lot of songs, but this one we sang almost daily. It did not take long before our new two-year-old recognized something special about this song! We'll never forget the day she realized the song had HER NAME in it! Her eyes grew larger! Then a roar of laughter as we all entered the exquisite joy of that moment! The next day we were singing it again. When we came to the "and for Bonnie Annie Laurie" part, she hollered out, "And Pierre – and William – and Machi – and Robin," all on the same note. Henceforth we had to mention all five names every time we sang it.

Another time we were going around the table discussing where everyone came from. William said, "I came from Japan." Robin: "I was born from Mommy." When we got to Annie Laurie, she responded, "We adopted me!"

Once she and Pierre were talking about origins, and Bonnie heard Pierre say to her, "Annie Laurie, - I came out of Mommy, and you came out of Korea."



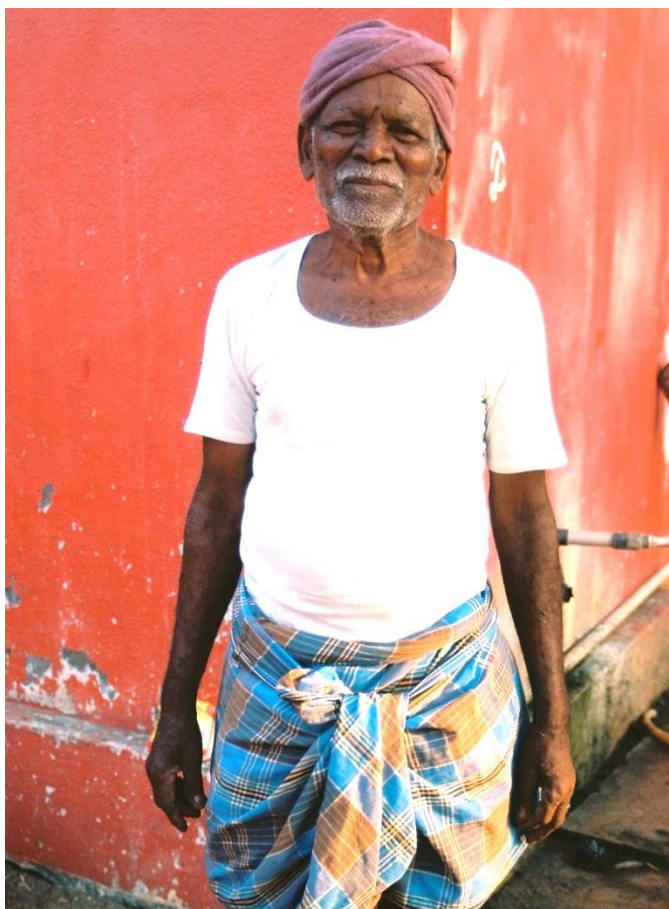
Annie Laurie had beautiful round cheeks. She also had her own way of thinking. Once she said: "Mommy, I have a headache."

"Where?" After some hesitation, she placed her little forefinger on the middle of her cheek.

To the left on Bonnie and Fred's laps for right to left are Annie Laurie, Robin, William, Pierre, Machiko (Machi) and the most beautiful baby in the world, Michael.

(Annie Laurie recently retired from being a Director of Admission at Brown University)





Kaliyampoondi – A handful of the Homes are lucky to have their own gardens used to feed hundreds of children three healthy meals a day. This promotes self-sufficiency in our beloved communities and empowers staff to make healthy decisions about what they eat and how it affects local ecosystems. At the Kaliyampoondi Home in particular, Muthyal (below left) ingeniously uses burnt cow dung produced by cows at the Home as a natural pesticide on eggplant foliage. Occasionally, worm castings which are generated from digested food waste are also added to garden beds, fertilizing the soil and improving their microbial communities. Shown in the bottom right picture, water from our treatment plant, which was collected from showers and human waste, and diverted to our biogas system, feeds the eggplants. And finally, our intrepid kitchen staff such as Indira (top right) use gas also produced from human waste to cook the yummy aubergine dish for all! Thank you Muthyal, Indira, and many others for working so hard to feed everyone and take care of our planet at the same time.



Kaliyampoondi – It's all hands on heads when it comes time to look for uninvited scalp guests! They can be hard to find, but with hundreds of little fingers to track them down, they don't stand a chance! There are definitely helpful aspects of having a hundred sisters.

Top right, care-giver Shobana takes a turn brushing Kanushka's hair.

Below them, Ramya looks for unwelcome visitors in House Mother Deepa's locks, who offers a helping hand.

To the immediate right, Angali looking radiant after her hair care session.





Kaliyampoondi – The boundless energy of little girls at play! The courtyard in the center of the Home has been pounded with thousands of joyful foot-prints.

Future Olympians, nurses, engineers, physicists, who knows. What we can know is that the joyful care free moments of childhood will be with them always.

In the background, the jasmine bush fills the air with sweet aroma.

Rani, below far left has graduated from Grade 10 and is now helping oversee activities at the Home among other duties.

Below right, Vaishali, takes a laughing and resting break leaning on the solar floodlight pole in the center of the courtyard.





Kaliyampoondi – Our tailor Kalaiselvam has been measuring our children and sewing clothes for them for many years.

Below our girls study under watchful gaze of the Goddess of Learning, Saraswati, on her throne in front of our library. Incidentally years ago Robin requested she be repainted with the resplendent skin tone of our children and staff. That was done, but years later when she was repainted again, the message didn't get through. We will keep affirming that Dark Is Beautiful!





Kaliyampoondi – Keerthana has found a butterfly or has the butterfly found her? No doubt both attracted to their sublime sweetness.

The Rabindranath Tagore poem comes to mind...

“The butterfly counts not months but moments, and has time enough.

Time is a wealth of change, but the clock in its parody makes it mere change and no wealth.

Let your life lightly dance on the edges of Time like dew on the tip of a leaf.”

Child Haven Support Groups for Fundraising Events

Location	Contact
Waterloo, ON	Sydney Cook 226-929-4275
Edmonton, AB	Sylvia Krogh 780-454-6216
Montreal/ Lennoxville	Sheila Laursen 514-697-4195
Hardwick, VT, USA	Robin Cappuccino 802-533-2296, Deborah Hartt 802-472-5284
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Vancouver, BC	Yamini Gandesha 604-999-2549, Katherine Doyle & Ian Cameron 604-255-4077
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Ottawa, ON	Lynda Inkster 613-824-1720, Parin Bhimani 613-422-1573
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Cornwall, ON	Elaine MacDonald 613-330-3117, elainemacdonald11@gmail.com



Kaliyampoondi – Although Praveen Kumar, pictured on the left, is laser-focused on his nursing work in the big city of Chennai, he has not forgotten his roots that helped make him the person he is today. Praveen came to the Child Haven Home in Kaliyampoondi when he was 10 years old because his father suffered from alcohol addiction and his mother was unable to earn enough money to provide even one meal a day.

After one of his Child Haven sisters named Kavita died of tuberculosis in middle school, Praveen always had it on his mind to go into the medical field. This, combined with empowering mentorship from Shiva Sankari, the Home's nurse at the time, motivated Praveen to take up nursing and fight disease.

Tuberculosis, considered one of the deadliest infectious diseases of all time, disproportionately affects communities that have been deprived of resources and forced into overcrowded living conditions and/or malnutrition. India is known to have world's largest

tuberculosis epidemic, infecting about 2.8 million people and killing about 230,000 people in 2023. Many families of Child Haven children who do not have access to healthcare and humane living conditions are part of this debilitating reality. Considering this, we are very fortunate to have the expertise of nurses like Shiva Sankari and Praveen Kumar who understand the communities that are most vulnerable to this disease and are moved to support their well-being compassionately.

Praveen graduated from his Child Haven sponsored nursing school last year. He is now working as a liver transplant nurse at the Rela Institute and Medical Center, a hospital in Chennai renowned for its care for critically ill and multi-organ transplant patients. As if that's not enough, he is also working on completing a fellowship in critical care nursing!

Praveen feels as though the care he is called to give in hospitals was inspired by the care Child Haven gives to so many needy children. On his last visit to the Kaliyampoondi Home, he talked about his hopes of conducting programming with Child Haven in the future, like supporting students as they complete their higher education and begin working. His desire is to serve all children without partiality. Congratulations Praveen on helping so many patients and for sharing your talent and gifts with your Child Haven siblings.

Overseas Interns Needed:

We have space for more volunteers who will pay their own travel and commit three to six months interning in India, Nepal, or Bangladesh. Please contact our office in Maxville: fred@childhaven.ca or 613-527-2829. A \$50 fee covers processing costs and your attendance at a two-day Orientation in Maxville. An additional \$200 donation to partially cover overseas room and board is also asked of first-time Interns. You can also check-out our Intern Brochure on our web-site www.childhaven.ca



Kaliyampoondi – Sangeetha, 8, and Niranjana, 6 are two of the bright, shining and sometimes rapidly spinning stars at our Home. After her father died, Sangeetha was living with her grandparents who were unable to continue to provide for her. Niranjana's father died in a fire and her mother, who works carrying sand on construction sites, was unable to care for Niranjana and her brother Kowshik, 7, who is also at the Home.

*Let me light my lamp, says the star,
And never debate if it will dispel the dark.*

Rabindranath Tagore



Chittagong – In late August of this year, catastrophic flooding affected 5.8 million people in Bangladesh and displaced about 500,000 people, leaving them homeless. Forhad Milon, pictured on the left, assistant manager of the Home in Chittagong despairingly reported, “Most of my neighbors’ mud-built or tin houses were destroyed by a heavy flash flood. Thousands of families lost their homes, farmers lost their crops, and mostly livestock were affected by this flood.” Rising sea levels, increased rainfall, and poverty make Bangladesh one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change.

When Child Haven children, staff, and board members heard about these tragedies, they met the moment with love and resilience. In the weeks following the flooding, our Child Haven family, pictured on the right, worked with local volunteers to purchase, pack and distribute saline, water purification tablets, soap, rice, oil, wheat flour, potatoes, lentils, and spices to 400 flood-affected families in the district of Noakhali. Everyone involved exemplified the Child Haven practice of caring for suffering brothers, sisters, and siblings, no matter what religion, gender, caste, community, or city they come from. Thank you to all the wonderful humans who made this life-saving work possible.



For donations please make cheques out to CHILD HAVEN, and mail this information slip to CHILD HAVEN, 19014 Conc. 7, Maxville, ON K0C 1T0 (or to Box 5099, Massena, NY 13662-5099, USA.) Donations to Child Haven are tax receiptable in Canada, India and the USA. General Full sponsorship is \$30/month or \$360/year.

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